

The ARRL petition has two provisions which should be DENIED by the Commission.

1) I do not support a Morse exam for any licence class, but if there must be a Morse examination to qualify for the Amateur Extra license then the test should be of some consequence, perhaps 20WPM, as befits the name "Extra". Five-WPM does not test competency; it only establishes that the applicant is familiar with the content of the Morse code.

2) Granting instant upgrades from Technician to General for almost a third-of-a-million licensees makes a mockery of the qualification system.

Today the General exam requires passing two 35-question written examinations, and the Technician requires passing only the simpler of those two exams.

The ARRL petition would essentially grant a one-time waiver of the second (harder) of the examinations, in effect holding a one-day sale of "half-price" General licenses to these 330,000 licensees. This is not some trivial "one-time adjustment" --- in fact, the vast majority of the General licensees would never have successfully passed the test required for that license class!

In the world of "unintended consequence" the effect of this give-away would be that the commission would have ipso-facto established that today's Technician examination is perfectly adequate for a General class license, and the credibility of the qualification structure in the Amateur Radio Service would be destroyed (especially since these "new" Generals would presumably now receive credit for the "General" written element when they proceed to upgrade to Extra).

In summary, the free upgrade idea should not be tossed aside lightly, it should be hurled aside with great force.

Respectfully,

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attempt, with a straight face, to rationalize this away by how few pages were in Ed Hare's study material for General 40 or more years ago! This support, from people like Carl, who previously stood four-square against any dilution of the technical requirements for amateur licenses, is unfathomable even when masked by platitudes of his "fiduciary duty", as though he were appointed to some "guardianship" responsibility to the amateur service???